

507 Eugenia Avenue  
Madison 5 Wisconsin

Mr. Melvin Larsen  
Commissioner  
Motor Vehicle Department  
State Of Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Larsen:

I am enclosing routine application for renewal of registration.

The reason for calling this to your attention is this: I am moving to the State of California about February 1, 1959, so that the present registration will be useful to me for a period of only two months. I understand that under present legislation you have no recourse but to require payment for full annual registration, and that there is no provision for refund. In California, I will of course be obliged to re-register. This inequity should be called to the attention of the legislature; meanwhile, I am forwarding this application under formal (please don't misunderstand me, not personal) protest.

Do you feel yourself that this arrangement is unjustified, and would you recommend its revision, or have I overlooked an important argument in the other direction?

My eleven years residence in Wisconsin led me to remark that your department has been run with commendable efficiency, and we should be grateful to you, among others for it. Will you permit me to make some observations on points for even further improvements?

a) I would not wish to enlarge in detail, but some of your driver's licence examiners have a reputation for surliness that is both unnecessary and unbecoming. This is by no means typical, and it is not difficult to understand in view of the discouraging and sometimes anxious nature of the task. However, don't you feel that an intending driver should be encouraged to do his best (and thereby better develop constructive attitudes later on) rather than made to cringe?

b) In the face of universal agreement on the injury-mitigating benefits of safety belts, it is astonishing that Wisconsin should not have more progressive legislation in this direction, or at least that their installation should have some official encouragement. I have had a go at this a few years ago, and was astonished that the Governor, legislators, and your own safety division (which I have the highest regard for) were all passing the buck to one another. Can't your department take the initiative in a technical way in preparing recommendations for legislative action? In the short time remaining of my Wisconsin residence, I hope to bring the subject again to the attention of the new legislature, but your own department would have to cooperate if anything is to come of it. Needless to say, this paragraph touches an issue far more important than the administrative details elsewhere in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg